

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending and rejected. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112. Claim 1 has been amended to delete the last paragraph starting with "wherein said determining means . . .". Claim 1, as amended, comprises a plurality of steps and should now be in condition for allowance.

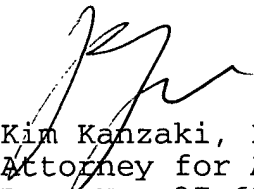
Claims 1-6 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. A terminal disclaimer filed concurrently with this response should now make Claims 1-6 allowable.

CONCLUSION

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

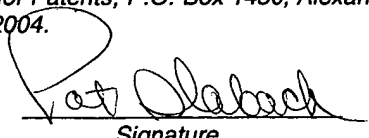
If there are any questions, the applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on April 1, 2004.

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